

J. O'Neill-Cater, asst
2019 JUL 25 AM 9:02



Town of Griswold
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
July 23, 2019
6:00 PM
Griswold Town Hall
28 Main St., Jewett City, CT 06351



MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Roll** – Meeting was called to order at 6 PM by Todd Babbitt, First Selectman

Members Present: Todd Babbitt, First Selectman
Steve Merchant Sr., Second Selectman
Ed Burke, Third Selectman

Others Present: Lisa M. Wood, Executive Assistant
Tina Falck, Senior Center Director
14 other interested citizens

2. **Notification of Emergency Exits** – Emergency exits were noted.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Pledge was cited.
4. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **June 25, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes**

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by S. Merchant, to approve the June 25, 2019 regular meeting minutes as submitted. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Correspondence** - None

6. **New Business**

- a. **Discussion and possible action on two tax refunds for a total of \$234.63 as presented by Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector**

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by E. Burke, to approve the two tax refunds as submitted for a total of \$234.63. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. Discussion and possible action on authorizing the First Selectman to execute the Grant Contract for the Historic Documents Preservation Program – T.** Babbitt noted the grant has already been approved and the state is asking for the Town to execute the contract document to receive the \$5,000.

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by S. Merchant, to authorize the First Selectman to execute the grant contract for the Historic Documents Preservation Program. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. Discussion and possible action on authorizing the First Selectman to execute a three year Contract Between the Town of Griswold and the Borough of Jewett City Regarding Collection of Taxes –** There was brief discussion. E. Burke asked what percentage the Borough was paying. T. Babbitt commented 6%. Contract also includes cost of printing the bills from Quality Data. It was also noted this is a three year contract request. T. Babbitt noted this streamlines the bill paying process for residents who have to pay both a borough and town tax bill.

MOTION: Motion was made by S. Merchant, seconded by T. Babbitt, to approve the three year contract of 7/1/19 to 6/30/22. **Motion carried.** S. Merchant and T. Babbitt in favor, E. Burke opposed.

- d. Discussion and possible action on presentation by Ed Berdick regarding Arborist Law Tree Planting –** E. Berdick noted the town has already approved going ahead with the Tree Planting in state wide recognition of the Arborist Law. He urged the town to gather input and suggestion as to what town owned property the tree should be planted on. He also suggested the town think about establishing a town green and placing a plaque and maybe a time capsule at the site. T. Babbitt suggested putting something on the internet and possibly in the paper, asking for feedback from the public. E. Berdick agreed and noted he can also solicit input on the radio and television broadcast.

- e. Discussion and possible action on awarding the contract for the school gas project –** T. Babbitt noted the contract was not available and suggested tabling.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to table this item. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- f. Discussion and possible action on sale of the old Senior Center bus –** Tina Falck, Senior Center Director, noted this is a 2005 E450 sixteen passenger van with wheelchair lift and 119,000 miles. She noted the van is parked at public works and is not being used. She would like to try to sell it and have the funds put into the capital account for purchase of a future senior center vehicle. T. Babbitt noted he would try to find an estimated price for the van and suggested possibly using the municipal online bidding site, if we can set a reserve amount.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to allow the Senior Center Director to look into possibly selling the old senior center bus due to lack of use. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- g. Discussion and possible action on use of funds from the Anthony Fund** – T. Falck noted this fund was originally created in 1893 by Daniel Anthony who started the fund with \$4000 to help support the poor. In 2009 the ordinance notes the committee is to consist of three members, Town Treasurer, the Senior Agent for the Elderly, and a representative of the Social Services Department of the Griswold Public Schools, such representative to be appointed by the Board of Education. T. Falck noted she did attend a few meetings in 2009 as the Agent for the Elderly. At that time, Dottie Faulise was the chair and proposed that the funds be used for eyewear and eye care for those who could not afford it and there were only a few uses for that purpose. For those who currently need eye care services, it is mostly covered by Husky. T. Falck would like to see the committee reestablished and address the current use of funds to help the poor in town. The balances in the fund were briefly discussed and the amount that could possibly be used was unclear. T. Babbitt noted we can send letters out to the people who currently hold the positions that make up the committee and set up a meeting.

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to table action on the funds until better numbers are received, but continue to notify the people in the positions outlined in the ordinance. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. Old Business

- a. Discussion and possible action on the offer of St. Anne's Church in Glasgo** – T. Babbitt noted he spoke with the members of the Glasgo WPCA and they still desire to try to save the church but has heard nothing back. There was brief discussion about possible demolition of the church and associated costs.

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to table discussion and pursue what demolition costs would be. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. Discussion and possible action on update presented by the Senior Center regarding medical marijuana** – T. Babbitt noted that CCM had no information on policies regarding medical marijuana and neither did our local insurance company. He noted he has reached out to our labor attorney and she is going to look into what some other towns they work with may have and get back to us.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to table this item until the next meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- c. **Discussion and possible action on membership of the Capital Improvement Committee** – T. Babbitt noted the Committee has requested another member and he has confirmed the current membership is what is currently outlined for the committee. He is not sure where the additional member should come from.

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to table this item. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- d. **Discussion and possible action on authorizing the First Selectmen to execute the proposed labor agreement with the public works union**

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to move forward with executing the proposed public works union contract. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. Any Other Business that may properly come before the Board

- a. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by E. Burke, to bring onto the agenda for discussion and possible action, Armaun Bakhshalizadeh to present his idea for cleaning Veteran's Memorial Park and possible community garden. Motion carried unanimously.

A. Bakhshalizadeh introduced Mauro Diaz-Hernandez who he was partnered with through UCONN's Natural Resources Conservation Academy. They described the program to bring together community members and high schoolers who are interested in conservation. Emily Perry was not able to be present tonight. There plan is to clean up the park and possibly initiate a community garden. They had proposed clean up dates of 7/26, 8/3 and 8/24. T. Babbitt noted any garden would have to be set up as to not create additional maintenance from public works. E. Burke asked if they had insurance and if they had spoken with Borough authorities yet. M. Diaz-Hernandez noted they had neither and that their timeline is flexible.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by E. Burke, to table until liability/insurance issues are addressed. **Motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **MOTION:** Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by S. Merchant, to bring the idea of creating a rain garden, onto the agenda for discussion and possible action. **Motion carried unanimously.**

T. Babbitt gave a brief description of a rain garden and noted it is something that design engineers are encouraging. We had a lady come out from CT Conservation who proposed two here at the building at town hall. We would have to do some light excavation and move one of the handicap parking spots. It would set a good example to those coming in to the wetlands commission and encourage the idea of something

to do to enhance property. The plan is to have the Wetlands Commission work on one and have the Boy Scouts work on the other with the state conservation group. Maybe we can get the boy scouts to maintain it during their mother's day plant sale.

MOTION: Motion was made by T. Babbitt, seconded by E. Burke, to proceed with the creation of the rain garden. **Motion carried unanimously.**

9. Public Forum

Ransom Young – Rixtown Rd. – R. Young spoke about bus transportation, cost of AmericInn, erosion of material at Rixtown cemetery and the Rixtown cemetery committee, and paving of Rixtown Rd.

Ed Berdick – Voluntown Rd. – E. Berdick spoke about the hazardous condition of Voluntown Rd. and the intersection with Oakville Rd. or the Point package store. T. Babbitt noted he will compose a letter to the state. E. Berdick also had suggestions about the church property and the harpooning heritage of the area.

James Barnie – Hopeville Rd. – J. Barnie suggested if another member is added to the Capital Improvement committee that it be a member at large. He also asked if T. Babbitt was able to get any information from CCM about Public Health & Safety Committees. T. Babbitt noted he did reach out to CCM and there was not much different information found.

Dave Vieaux – Leha Ave. – D. Vieaux asked about blight regarding the shipping containers and whether businesses have to comply with the blight ordinance. He also noted that at the P&Z meeting last week they indicated they would not enforce the blight ordinance. They want to eliminate it and go with a housing ordinance.

Sharon Viadella – Lester Rd. – S. Viadella offered her name for the Blight appeals committee if needed. She also asked if the work on Stonehill Rd. had been done and asked why the information of Senator Somers' meeting was not on the website.

Ryan Snide – Tatro Rd. – R. Snide noted if a new CIP member is added it should be a member at large or a member of the recreation commission or someone who is involved with recreational activities. He also presented a letter to each board member for their help with getting permission to do some work in cemeteries. He also feels the water garden is a good idea and inquired as to liability coverage.

Ransom Young – Rixtown Rd. – R. Young mentioned stones along the waterway at VMP need to be regouted. He also commented the area of Bethel Rd., Rixtown Rd. and Rt. 165 is a dangerous area. He also wanted to know if any state forest maps have been attained.

James Barnie – Hopeville Rd. – J. Barnie commented that the state is claiming they don't have time or equipment to mow but they have six trucks lined up on 395 for a minor repair.

10. Adjournment

MOTION: Motion was made by E. Burke, seconded by T. Babbitt, to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 PM. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M. Wood".

**Lisa M. Wood,
Executive Assistant**